GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1319
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015
Financial Assistance to Small Tea Growers
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha;Salim Shri Mohammad

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether small tea growers are facing distress over pricing woes;

b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help small tea growers along with the financial assistance provided to them during each of the last three years and the current year;

c) whether any cases of suicides in closed tea gardens of Darjeeling and Doars of West Bengal have come to the notice of the Government during the said period; and

d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in each case?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) & (b): Government is aware of the contribution made by small tea growers to production of tea and concerns over the prices received by them from sale of tea leaves. The Tea Board has notified a price sharing formula for ensuring equitable sharing of sale proceeds between factories and small tea growers. District Level Price Monitoring Committees have been formed in the tea growing areas to monitor the green leaf price. The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 has been amended to ensure transparency in prices paid by tea manufacturers to the small growers by referencing them to the average auction prices of tea in the region. The growers are also encouraged to set up their own tea factories either individually or collectively.
The Tea Development and Promotion Scheme implemented by the Tea Board during the XII Plan has a separate component for small growers' development. The Scheme includes outlays inter alia for promoting small tea growers and addressing their special needs, particularly in the area of improving production and productivity through new planting; establishing processing factories with special focus on enhancement of quality; organization of primary producer societies/Self Help Groups; implementation of the price sharing formula notified under Tea Marketing Control Order, 2003 and other measures aimed at safeguarding the quality of tea. A separate Small Grower Development Directorate with adequate technical man power has been created to take care of the developmental needs of the small sector.
Financial assistance extended to the small tea growers in the last three years of the XII plan and the current year is given below:
Financial assistance extended to the Small Tea Growers

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount in `Crore
1	2012-13	18.32
2	2013-14	19.65
3	2014-15	21.03
4	2015-16(Upto October)	2.57
Total		61.57

(c) & (d): The Government has not received any report regarding suicides in closed tea gardens including Darjeeling and Doars of West Bengal.
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